been released to West Bengal till 2003-04 for taking up anti erosion schemes in Malda and Murshidabad districts. The above scheme is also being continued further during 2004-07 for which an amount of Rs. 51.00 crore has been earmarked for the State of West Bengal as Central share to take up the critical anti erosion works at an estimated cost of Rs. 68.00 crore which interalia include seven nos. of schemes for Malda and Murshidabad districts.

In addition to above Farakka Barrage Project Authorities are also undertaking the critical anti-erosion works in and around Farakka Barrage Project. Since 9th Plan, an amount of Rs 38.74 crore has been incurred by the project on critical anti erosion works in Malda and Murshidabad districts till June, 2004. Futher, a provision of Rs. 8.1 crore has been made under the CSS for Farakka Barrage Project to take up anti erosion works on river Ganga/Padma within its jurisdiction during 2004-07 with 100% Central funding.

In order to look into the flood & erosion problem in Assam & neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Government of India have constituted a Task Force in August 2004 which has been asked to submit their report in a time bound manner.

Interconnection of Kosi and Ghaghara rivers

†2239. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated action on the proposal to interconnect Kosi and Ghaghara rivers to protect Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh for the horror of flood; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof and the cost likely to be incurred thereon and by when this scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYANA YADAV): (a) and (b) The Kosi-Gahghra link under Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan envisage diversion of Kosi water to Gahghra river. The scheme envisages construction of Kosi reservior and link canal which has some flood control benefits for some area in Bihar & UP in addition to irrigarion benefits. Currently, National Water Development Agency (NWDA)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is preparing the feasibility report of the link which is scheduled for completion by December, 2005. The realistic cost of the scheme will be known only after completion of the detailed project report (DPR). The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultaitive manner. The implementation of these link proposals is dependent upon the comperehensive assessment and the agreements reached amongst the concerned States/ neighbouring countries.

Completion of Irrigation schemes in Tamil Nadu

2240. SHRI C. PERUMAL. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fast track programme for completion of major and medium irrigation schemes with full Central assistance was introduced in the year 2002; and

(b) if so, the number of schemes in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu out of which how many of them have been completed, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYANA YADAV): (a) and (b) The Fast Track Programme for completion of major & medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme was started in February, 2002. 32 major/medium irrigation projects/project components of various States have been included under this programme. No irrigation project of Tamil Nadu has been included under Fast Track Programme. As reported by the State Government, 5 projects/project components included under Fast Track Programme have, so far, been completed.

Master Plan to control flood

2241. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any master plan to control flood in major rivers;